



CHATEAU MONTELENA

ESTABLISHED 1882

2016 Napa Valley Chardonnay

Notes from the Winemaker, Matt Crafton, September 2018

INTRODUCTION

Leadership is deeply ingrained in our DNA at Chateau Montelena. It drove Jim Barrett as he rehabilitated the winery in the 1970's and continues today in the spirit of innovation, creation, and ingenuity that define the culture here. Our legacy of leadership and stewardship informs how we make decisions both in the vineyard and winery; we're deeply respectful of the past but openly embrace bold ideas as we aim to craft extraordinary wines each year. The 2016 Chardonnay embodies that perfectly. While our neighbors were still prepping their crush pads, we were deep in our Chardonnay vineyards tasting the incredible flavor development that just couldn't be seen using routine lab analysis. The result was our recognition of an incredibly tight window to harvest while the sweetness, acidity, and flavors were in perfect balance.

VINTAGE WEATHER

2016 will be remembered as a classic vintage with consistent temperatures and few extremes. Although yields were low in general, a relatively mild August and September moderated ripening, allowing for uniform maturity and the opportunity for very selective, targeted picks.

NOSE

All of our wines from the 2016 vintage are incredibly floral and this Chardonnay is no exception. Honeysuckle, jasmine, and apple blossom along with wispy notes of vanilla and lemon balm highlight a harmony of classic Chardonnay aromas.

PALATE

Green apple, candied orange peel, and baking spices anchor a panoply of vineyard flavors. Seamlessly interwoven between each is fresh, bright acidity along with incredible minerality and depth that slowly build texture and weight.

FINISH

The contrast between silky toast and sweet pear highlights an exceedingly rich finish that will only become more supple and dynamic with age.

Technical Information

HARVEST DATES

August 23 – September 12

ALCOHOL

13.6%

BLEND

100% Chardonnay

BARREL AGING

10 months, French oak

BOTTLING DATES

July 17–27, 2017

RELEASE DATE

Fall 2018

WINEMAKER

Matt Crafton